

+590 Van Dyke
Kinde, Michigan
February 12-57

President Eisinghower
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

As strange as this may seem, (and it
seems very strange to me), I have
been given the assignment, by my
government teacher, of writing to
you and asking you how much money
was spent on King Saud's visit.

Frankly, it couldn't please me more
if you wrote back and told him it
was none of his dam business. How-
ever, I would appreciate an answer
of some sort.

Thank You
Sincerely,

*Draft -
Jill
2/12/57*

May 2/20/57

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April 3 1957

Dear Mr. Yagman:

The White House has sent to the Department of State for reply your letter of February 12, 1957 to the President concerning the recent visit to the United States of King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia.

It is contrary to the practice of the Department to make public information concerning the cost of visits of heads of state and other official guests of the United States Government. Since variations in the amount of money spent on different visits are likely to occur, this information is therefore considered confidential both as a matter of courtesy to the visitors and to avoid ill will. The cost of such visits to this Government are reasonable and, moreover, these visits greatly assist the President and his advisors in carrying out the objectives of our foreign policies.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Meagher
Chief
Public Services Division

Mr. Max Yagman,
4690 Van Dyke,
Kinde, Michigan.

P:SEV:LMCampbell:OEL:pp

Based on substance provided by U/PR-CEConger
NEA 3/25/57 S/S-CE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL

March 1, 1957

MEMORANDUM

To : SEV - Lula M. Campbell
Through: A - William R. Little
From : U/PR - Clement E. Conger *EC*
Subject: Visit of King Saud of Saudi Arabia

We were naturally amused and delighted with Max Yageman's letter to the President, but I don't think we can tell him so. However, on the general subject of the cost of visits in my opinion something like this is the probable reply:

must [The State Department is not in ^athe position to give figures covering the cost of visits of heads of state and others who are official guests of the United States Government. This information is considered confidential for the reason that the visitor is not aware of the cost of his visit and if it became known that there was a ~~wide~~ variation in the amount of money spent on different visitors, ~~a great deal of ill will~~ could easily result. It is our understanding that other countries follow this same general practice in not making public the cost of entertainment of foreign guests. The Department of State believes that the cost of entertainment of such visitors is very reasonable by the present standards of cost of living, ~~entertainment,~~ ~~etc.~~]

In the event that you have other letters which go into the problem of how many of King Saud's entourage were official guests of the United States Government the following paragraph might serve as guidance for you:

SV "The King of Saudi Arabia was the official guest of the United States Government while in Washington for himself and his official party who could be accommodated in the President's Guest House. A rather large unofficial party stayed in a hotel in Washington at the expense of the Government of Saudi Arabia."

We prefer not to get into details of how many were official guests and how many were not, but actually 20 persons were accommodated in the President's Guest House and were treated as official guests. Nearly 50 persons were quartered at the Shoreham Hotel. We did a great many things for these people, but their expenses were borne by the Government of Saudi Arabia.

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